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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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RECEIVED DOCUMENTS DIVISION

Navy Starts Construction Of New Deep-Diving Sub

An entirely new deep-diving submarine, capable of operating to a depth in excess of any known submarine now operational, is under construction at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, N.H.

Named the "Dolphin," the Navy's new vehicle is scheduled for completion in December.

At present, mission of the Dolphin is primarily military. However, officials noted that it will serve as a platform for underwater research, particularly acoustics.

It will have one torpedo tube, designed for weapon evaluation and other uses.

The Dolphin, estimated to cost $37 million, will be 152 feet long and be capable of submerged speeds in excess of 12 knots. Its displacement will be 900 tons, with capability of supporting a scientific payload of 12 tons.

First commanding officer of the Dolphin will be LCdr. John R. McDonnell. It will be manned by two additional officers, 15 enlisted men and four scientists.

During surface operations the Dolphin is a diesel electric propelled vehicle. While submerged it will be propelled by electrical power from silver zinc batteries.

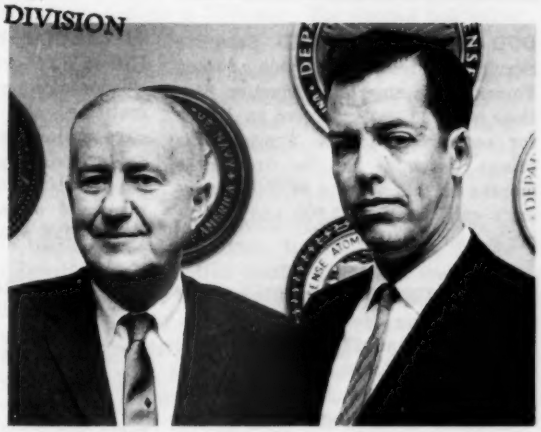
Operation 'Turn Key' Building Program Speeds RVN Air Base to Ready Status

U. S. fighter aircraft are now flying strike missions from Tuy Hoa Air Base, less than seven months after a contract was awarded for construction of the airfield in the Republic of Vietnam.

The feat was accomplished through Operation "Turn Key," a single manager concept of construction under Air Force contract.

Operational capability of Tuy Hoa AB was achieved 45 days ahead of the planned base occupancy date. Final construction of the new facility is scheduled for completion in mid-1967.

Under "Turn Key," the contractor was required to provide design and engineering, mobilize material, equipment, and manpower in the U. S., and "go across the beach" to build the airfield from scratch.



HIGH LEVEL CHANGE—This meeting between Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (left), and his deputy, Phil G. Goulding, signifies the approaching end to Sylvester's nearly six years in the position. The resignation brought White House disclosure that Goulding will be nominated for the vacancy.

DOD Public Affairs Chief Retires, Goulding Nominated as Successor

President Johnson has accepted with "deep regret" the resignation of Arthur Sylvester, who served nearly six years as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

Nomination as Sylvester's successor will go to Phil G. Goulding, according to the White House. Goulding became Sylvester's deputy nearly two years ago after spending 15 years in the Washington Bureau of the Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer.

Sylvester, 65, wrote President Johnson that the time had come to step aside to handle some personal matter left unfinished when he took the Pentagon post at the start of the Kennedy administration.

The President accepted the resignation effective Feb. 3. In a letter he expressed appreciation for Sylvester's service through crises in Cuba, Berlin, the Dominican Republic and Southeast Asia.

President Johnson said Sylvester had always acted with total loyalty, resolute courage and selfless dedication.

Washington Memos

DOD HAS REQUESTED Selective Service System to provide Armed Forces Examining and Induction Stations with 11,900 inductees in March for assignment to the Army. This brings the total for the first three months of this year to 38,400. January's call was for 15,600 and February's was for 10,900.

FIRST FLEET EMBARKED on first major training exercise of 1967 Jan. 5. 25 ships and 27 air units, under command of VAdm. B. F. Roeder, USN, are training in air, anti-air, surface and sub-surface warfare. Exercise, dubbed "Snatch Block," ends Jan. 13.

DOD STATISTICS REVEAL that 6,644 U. S. service personnel lost their lives in RVN through hostile force actions from Jan. 1, 1961 through Dec. 31, 1966. An additional 1,511 lost their lives from other causes.

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Da Nang, RVN, set a new monthly record in measurement tons (40 cu. ft. by volume) of cargo handled in December. Activity handled 250,707 measurement tons, an increase of more than 10,000 tons above previous high set in October.

SELECTION BOARD convened Jan. 9 at the Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex., to consider Air Force secondary zone nominations for promotion to temporary grade of colonel. This is the first of 19 various selection boards scheduled to meet through this fiscal year.

TERMINAL DATE FOR award of Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Dominican Republic operation has been established as Sept. 21, 1966.

A NEW CONCEPT in folding litters has been developed by Naval Medical Field Research Laboratory. Vietnam field tests are scheduled by Marine units and ARPA. Litter weighs three pounds less than ones presently used and may be folded into 27"x7"x8" package for easy carrying by one man.

ADVANCED EDUCATION TRAINING in FY68 will find 1,294 Air Force officers taking courses under Air Force Institute of Technology program. Five major fields being entered are engineering, management, industry, biological/physical sciences, and human and social sciences. Selectees include 128 pilots.

NEW PARACHUTE JUMPING rules to provide additional safeguards for jumpers and airplanes have been announced by FAA to begin March 24. The new safety regulations require jump aircraft to have two-way voice radio communicating equipment whenever jumping operations are to be conducted in "controlled airspace."

AN 800-UNIT airmen's dormitory will be constructed at Barksdale AFB, La., under $1.4 million fixed-price contract to Chaney and James Construction Co., Inc., Richardson, Tex. Award is by Naval Facilities Engineering Command through Commanding Officer, Gulf Division, New Orleans, La.

NEW EDITION of "The Capitol—Symbol of Freedom," pictorial story of the Capitol in general and the House of Representatives in particular, has just been released. Copies may be obtained for 50 cents each from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

"GRAND OLD MAN" of 25th Inf. Div. is being reassigned from the "Tropic Lightning" Division to Ft. Shafter, Hawaii. CWO James Y. Blevins has been 25th member off and on for more than 26 years and three wars. During career he served as enlisted man twice, warrant officer twice, second lieutenant twice, and holds USAR commission as lieutenant colonel. He plans to stay on active duty until 30-year retirement.

NEW TYPE MOSQUITO netting that allows better vision and hearing when used as head or bed net has been announced by Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Coarse netting, four threads to the inch, is treated with insect repellent. This prevents entrance of insects for several weeks. Standard military netting is finely woven with 21-27 threads to inch.

AIR FORCE will award scholarships to 3,000 cadets in its four-year ROTC program this year. Scholarships will take effect in 1967-68 school year and will be given to qualified sophomore, junior and senior cadets at more than 140 colleges and universities hosting AFROTC program. This is largest number of scholarships since program began in 1965.

MEMBERS OF 1ST Bn., 35th Inf., 25th Inf. Div., have completed 109 consecutive days of continuous combat operations. Personnel received 28 awards during operation including one Distinguished Service Cross, 12 Silver Star and 20 Bronze Star Medals for valor.

97 OFFICERS and enlisted men of four major Army units assembled at Hqs., 25th Inf. Div., RVN, to receive Vietnamese awards. Recipients ranged from brigadier general to private first class. Crosses of Gallantry with palm, gold star, silver star, or bronze star were awarded for exemplary leadership, guidance and outstanding technical and logistical support during Operation "Attleboro."

LARGEST CLASS EVER graduated from School of Submarine Medicine's rigorous six-month course at New London, Conn. The 40 medical officers will soon report to operating units of the Polaris Submarine Fleet.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Background for Commanders

Vietnam and The International Law of Self-Defense*

How does one apply international law to this kind of problem [the Vietnam conflict]?

• In the case of Vietnam we have the Geneva Accords as a starting point and legal framework for dealing with the situation. Although the United States did not sign the Accords, from the beginning it undertook to respect them.

For nearly seven years U. S. forces and material in the South stayed within the limits set by the Geneva Accords for external military assistance. The United States made the decision to exceed the limits on the basis of a principle of international law similar to the doctrine of fundamental breach in the domestic law of contracts.

North Vietnam had violated seriously the obligation to prevent the northern zone from being "used for the resumption of hostilities or to further an aggressive policy." **In these circumstances South Vietnam was relieved from the obligation to comply with the cease-fire agreement's limitations on military manpower and materiel, when the South needed additional strength for its own defense against aggression from the North. At no time did South Vietnam undertake to overrun the North by force.**

• **Critics have argued that any U. S. assistance that might be justified would have to be confined geographically to South Vietnam. Such a rule certainly does not apply to a case of armed attack. Legitimate defense includes military action against the aggressor wherever such action is needed to halt the attack.**

• Some argue that Vietnam does not present a situation of "armed attack" because invading armies were not massed at a border and did not march across it in broad daylight.

The crucial consideration is that North Vietnam has sent instrumentalities of the State, including units of its regular armed forces, into South Vietnam—to subject the South to its rule.

• United States and South Vietnamese air strikes and other military actions against North Vietnam have been based on the legal proposition that they are measures of collective defense against armed attack from the North.

It has been argued that no international body—such as the United Nations—has made such a finding. But the U. N. Charter, dealing with armed attack, says that "the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense" may be exercised "until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security." Thus the defender does not have to await action by the Security Council. The United States has several times reported to the Council on military actions in Vietnam. The Council has taken no action.

• Another argument made against the U. S. legal position on collective self-defense is that Vietnam is a single country and that the regime in the North is not legally precluded from taking steps, including the use of force, to unify North and South Vietnam under a single Communist regime.

Any such argument ignores the plain provisions of the Geneva Accords of 1954. It also suggests a view of international law that would operate to undermine peace and security in many parts of the world.

In the Korea of 1950 the 38th Parallel was not a permanent boundary. Like the line in Vietnam [it] was not intended to last. But this made the North Korean invasion no less an armed attack under international law. In Europe also, the lines of demarcation between East and West Germany and around West Berlin have never been intended as permanent boundaries. However, any movement to disregard them would have the gravest consequences.

• Another argument [concerning elections] advanced to justify the actions of Hanoi has no merit. The elections referred to in the Geneva Accords were to be "free general elections by secret ballot." **Even the North Vietnamese Defense Minister in effect admitted long ago that such elections would have been impossible in North Vietnam. In October 1956 [he] said, "We have . . . executed too many honest people. We attacked on too large a front and seeing enemies everywhere, resorted to terror. . . ."**

Thus it cannot properly be said that there was any breach of agreement by South Vietnam when it declined to proceed toward elections that could not possibly have been meaningful.

• **Measures of defense must be proportional to the attack. The U. S. program of air strikes against North Vietnam has been designed for the purpose of interfering with transport to the South; destroying supplies intended for shipment to the South; in short, to halt continuing aggression by North Vietnam.**

I have been setting forth reasons in support of U. S. military actions against North Vietnam. Justification for these actions in no way displace a continuing obligation we have under the United Nations Charter to seek a peaceful settlement.

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* *Excerpts from an address by State Department Legal Adviser Leonard C. Meeker at the University of Pittsburgh Law School.*

President Johnson Names 11 to Receive National Science Medal

President Johnson has named 11 individuals to receive the National Medal of Science for distinguished scientific and engineering achievement during 1966.

The President noted that the Medal serves as a symbol of the Nation's desire to recognize outstanding achievement, to set an example for youth, and to depict to the world the depth and variety of American accomplishment in science and engineering.

"Behind the brief words of the citations stand real men who every day are lighting the dark areas of our knowledge," the President said. He added, "From them we have learned much about the cells in the human body, about human and animal nutrition, and about genetics and evolution."

President Johnson noted that several in the group "have given much to the cause of our national defense and security."

The Medal was established in 1959 by the 86th Congress.

Year's Savings Bond Sales At 10-Year Peak

Sales of U. S. Savings Bonds last year were $4.9 billion, the highest annual sales in 10 years, according to the Treasury Department.

At the same time, Series E sales in 1966 amounted to $4.5 billion, the highest in 20 years. H Bond sales of $410 million were four percent above 1965.

During December, E and H Bond sales represented a 12.8 percent increase over the $329 million sold in the same month of 1965.

At the close of business in December this year, the cash value of Series E and H Bonds held by Americans set an all-time record high of $50.2 billion.

LUCKY THIRTEEN—Capt. Jack L. Wohler, USN (center), commanding officer of the guided missile cruiser USS Albany, paints another drone symbol on one of Albany's Talos missile guidance radars, signifying mission accomplished when the ship fired 13 Talos missiles during exercises at Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range. Witnessing the ceremony are (from left) Ltjg. Robert Turner, Cdr. Carl C. Kaczmarek, FTC Raymond Hickey and FTC Ronald Hantack, all of whom participated in the firings.

Marines in Vietnam Go On 'Rubber Boat' Patrols

Marines of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force are using rubber boats to navigate the many winding rivers of South Vietnam to search villages located in deep jungle areas.

When a village is reached, Marines move ashore and begin their search. Once a cave is discovered, a smoke grenade is thrown inside to clear out Viet Cong who may be using the cave as a hiding place.

Confident that the cave is empty, a Marine engineer with the patrol is called to demolish the cave by setting a charge with fuse and primer.

Army Critical Skill Promotion Program Ends

Army's policy of promotions for certain active duty, critical skill E-5s and E-6s with 20 or more years active service ended Dec. 31.

The policy was started shortly after Army began offering a one-grade promotion to certain critical skill enlisted retirees who voluntarily returned to active duty.

Astronaut Training Applicants Exceed 400

The National Academy of Sciences has received more than 400 applications from scientists and engineers for astronaut training.

About one in four of the applicants is a medical scientist, one in five an engineer, and one in six a physicist. Other applicants are in life sciences, chemistry and earth sciences.

About 46 percent of the applicants are from university campuses, 21 percent in industry, 13 percent in Government or Government-supported laboratories and the remainder are from hospital staff, military service or self-employed.

West Pointers Permitted Summer Airborne Training

The Army Chief of Staff has approved a program permitting U. S. Military Academy cadets to receive airborne training during the summer leave period.

Training is open to volunteers of the first and second classes. Those due to graduate in June may participate during their graduation leave.

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